

Serial No.09/865,230

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 24, line 5, is amended as indicated below:

Segments are allocated for write operations only because written data requires actual disk space in order to record their information. Segments are not allocated for read operations because a read operation on sectors in an unallocated segment does not contain any valid data. No valid data exist on the sectors because no data was written to the sectors yet. In order for a sector to have valid information, a sector must be written first before it can be read. Therefore if a sector is read before it is written (unallocated), which may occur, for example, if an image backup program causes reads of an unwritten sector, its data can be manufactured by the driver and returned to the requestor (OS or application) thereby saving segments from being unnecessarily allocated. The steps that are taken during Read and Write requests on unallocated segments follow.